(b) if so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) the number of applications received by the General Manager, Delhi Telephones from the Members of Parliament between January 1993 to January 1994 ; and

(d) the details of cases disposed of in the office of each of the General Manager after two weeks, four weeks and more than four weeks, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) ; (a) to (d) Sir, the required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of Post Offices

893. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is under pressure to open more post offices as well as constrained to observe austerity due to deficit ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to increase the price of posts card to meet the twin demand ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that common man is likely to be adversely affected by this proposal ;

(d) whether any alternate is being considered to safeguard the interest of common man ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Post offices are opened progressively under Plan depending upon the fulfilment of the departmental norms and availability of resources.

(b) Revision of postal tariff is generally, a part of the exercise for the finalisation of the General Budget. As regards the possibility of increase in the price of post card, it may not be possible to indicate any details in this regard since no final views have yet been taken by the Government on this subject.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Postal Communication System

894. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to create a reliable and efficient postal communication system ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the projection made for Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Efforts are being made through the sucessive plans to create a reliable and efficient Postal Communication System .

(b) and (c) Details are annexed as a statement.

Statement

The Plan schemes of the Department of Posts for creating